

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY E:RMPOATS

APPROVED BY E:CWROBINSON

NEA/BLC:MDRAPER

NEA/IRN:RBEALES

S/S:CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USIRJC

SUBJECT: U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: TEHRAN 7679

1. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL WITH ANSARY IN FRANCE. ANSARY PROMISED TO LOOK INTO PROBLEMS DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT COMMISSION PROGRAMS ON HIS RETURN TO TEHRAN AUGUST 15. HE WANTS TO MEET SOON AFTER RETURN WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM, PRESUMABLY AFTER CHECKING WITH MEHRAN ON STATUS OF OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS PLAN AND OF PENDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AGREEMENTS WITH USG AGENCIES.

2. ANSARY GAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY CHANGE IN GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD JOINT COMMISSION PROGRAMS OTHER THAN GENERAL REFERENCE TO BUDGETARY FACTORS. HE DID REITERATE HIS VIEW THAT CLEARER LINES MUST BE DRAWN BETWEEN REIMBURSABLE EFFORTS OF USG AGENCIES IN PROVIDING (INCLUDING PREPARATIONS TO PROVIDE) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED BY GOI, ON ONE HAND, AND NON-REIMBURSABLE
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EFFORTS BY USG AGENCIES TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE TO GOI

RELATED TO USG INITIATIVES IN PROMOTING US EXPORTS TO IRAN.

ANSARY SEEMS TO REALIZE THAT IN BORDERLINE CASES IT MAY BE UNCLEAR WHETHER INITIATIVE WAS US OR IRANIAN AND WHETHER TECHNICAL SERVICE IN QUESTION IS PRINCIPALLY OR ONLY CIRCUMSTANTIALLY RELATED TO US EXPORT PROMOTION.

3. MINISTRY LABOR'S SEVERELY SCALED DOWN PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH USDL, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS STALLED IN FINANCE OR FOREIGN MINISTRY, CONTAINS SMALL AMOUNT US TECHNICAL SERVICES IN PLANNING TWO TRAINING PROJECTS INVOLVING MAJOR CAPITAL PLANT INVESTMENT WITH US EXPORT SALES POTENTIAL. IF FINANCE MINISTRY IS BLOCKING THIS AGREEMENT ON GROUNDS THESE SHOULD NOT BE REIMBURSED SERVICES, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT FROM OUTSET MLSA LISTED THESE AS HIGHEST PRIORITY IN ITS REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THEY WERE SO TREATED IN JOINT COMMISSION. FURTHERMORE, US TECHNICAL SERVICES IN PLANNING CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT ARE ONLY FIRST PHASE OF LONGER-TERM US TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH GOI ON THESE TRAINING PROJECTS.

4. ANSARY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HE COULD SECURE MAJLIS RATIFICATION OF TCA IN SEPTEMBER IF, INDEED, THIS IS REQUIRED TO MOVE AHEAD ON PROGRAMS.

5. SEPTTEL DEALS WITH PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES COVERAGE AND STANDARD TERMS OF AGENCY TO AGENCY PROGRAM AGREEMENTS. SISCO

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